Connectivity for tourist destinations

†2390. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has held talks with concerned Ministries with a view to connecting tourist destinations with rail and air and providing transport facility;

(b) whether her Ministry has ever approached the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the development of highways for transportation of more tourists to tourist destinations; and

(c) if so, the details of such talks, approach and exchange of views?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has requested Ministry of Railways to upgrade the railway stations at identified major tourist destinations and also improve passenger amenities both at the railway stations and in the trains. It was also requested to introduce tourist trains. The Ministry of Civil Aviation was requested to augment air connectivity to important tourist destinations including hilly areas and also to develop non metro-airports at major tourist/destinations/circuits into would standards. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was requested to widen the National Highways and improve other roads leading to important tourist destinations, Heritage sites and Buddhist sites in the country.

Foreign tourists visiting India

†2391. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the years, 2004-05 and 2005-06, year-wise;

(b) the number of tourists who visited India from each country during each of the above years;

(c) the number of foreign tourists out of them who visited Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during each of the year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.